REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 1 claims a test socket with a contact to be electrically connected to an external connection terminal of a member to be tested so as to be used for testing an electrical characteristic of the member. The contact comprises a tip end, a plurality of protuberances and recesses, resiliently-deformable bulging sections, and a support section. The tip end is to be brought into contact with the external connection terminal. The plurality of protuberances and plurality of recesses are formed in the tip end. The resiliently-deformable bulging sections extend perpendicularly with respect to the tip end. The support section is provided in an extended line of a direction along which the tip end moves by resilient deformation of the resiliently-deformable bulging sections.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a plurality of protuberances and a plurality of recesses formed in the tip end, as claimed in claim 1, the claimed invention provides a contact which ensures electrical connection between the contact and the external connection terminals of the member. Furthermore, since the contact load is equally distributed by the resiliently-deformable bulging sections, the top end of the contact does not scrape the member to be tested. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Ozawa et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,599,194).

Ozawa et al appears to disclose that in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 61-150249, a ring-like contact pin of thin wall construction is proposed for use in an IC socket which is used for mounting an IC device or similar electronic parts (see FIG. 17). In an IC socket, as shown in FIGS. 18 and 19, the leads of an IC device positioned on top 3 of a multiple contact pin 10' (FIG. 17) and aligned on a socket body 20 are pressed toward contact pin 10' by pads 21-1 and 21-2 fitted on cover 21 linked on socket body 20 by shaft 23 as the cover is closed. However prior art pins similar to contact pins 10' have the disadvantage of poor electrical connection due to an insulation of oxide film formed on the surfaces of the leads; and each contact pin 10', when pads 21-1 and 21-2 fitted on cover 21 are pressed for connections of the leads and contact pins 10' as cover 21 is closed. Also, prior art contact pins similar to contact pin 10' have the disadvantage that they are too weak to endure severe plastic deformation as they are made of ring plates having a very thin wall. (col. 1, lines 33-51) Further, prior art IC sockets having mount contact type contact pins 10' have the disadvantage that it is hard to align the leads of the IC device in positions between guide walls provided in the IC socket. Furthermore, it has a disadvantage that the leads may be bent or broken if deformed when the cover 21 is closed. (col. 1, lines 59-64)

Thus, *Ozawa et al* merely discloses a contact pin 10'. Nothing in *Ozawa et al* shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of protuberances and a plurality of recesses formed in a tip end as claimed in claim 1. Rather, *Ozawa et al* merely discloses a contact 10' as shown in Figure 17.

Since nothing in *Ozawa et al* shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of protuberances and a plurality of recesses formed in a tip end as claimed in claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 4 would not have been anticipated within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by *Ozawa et al* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Ozawa et al* in view of *Grabbe* (U.S. Patent No. 4,995,816).

As discussed above, since nothing in *Ozawa et al* shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the primary reference with the secondary reference to *Grabbe* will not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Since withdrawn claims 5-9 depend from allowable claim 1, it is respectfully requested that these claims also be allowed.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the

applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Claim 1

1. (Thrice Amended) A test socket with a contact to be electrically connected to an external connection terminal of the member to be tested so as to be used for testing an electrical characteristic of the member, wherein

said contact comprising:

a tip end to be brought into contact with said external connection terminal;

a plurality of protuberances and a plurality of recesses formed in said tip end;

resiliently-deformable bulging sections which extend perpendicularly with respect to said tip end; and

a support section provided in an extended line of a direction along which said tip end moves by resilient deformation of said resiliently-deformable bulging sections.